

Message Text

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R 301400Z JUL 76
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INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU
SUBJECT: IZMIR REACTION TO ECEVIT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT
1. IZMIR PRESS BANNERED NEWS AGENCY ACCOUNTS AND BACKUP STORIES
CONCERNING ECEVIT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND ALL IZMIR DAILIES
RAN ONE OR MORE EDITORIALS AND COLUMNS THEREON. ALL EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION THAT ECEVIT ESCAPED INJURY AND MOST NOTED THE
IRONY THAT THE INTENDED VICTIM WAS AUTHOR OF LOCALLY FAMOUS
POEM ABOUT TURKISH-GREEK FRIENDSHIP. ITEMS IN CONSERVATIVE
AND LEFT-WIN PRESS GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO LAUDATORY OF

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OF ECEVIT PERSONALLY; LEFTIST DEMOKRAT IZMIR SEIZED OCCASION TO
EULOGIZE HIM. HOWEVER, YENI ASIR'S CONSERVATIVE COLUMNIST,
HALUK CANSIN, AFTER VOICING SATISFACTION OVER ECEVIT'S ESCAPE,
DEVOTED MUCH OF A COLUMN TO CRITICISM OF TRT FOR OVER-
EMPHASIZING THE STORY AND "CREATING A HERO IN THE PERSON OF
ECEVIT." SEVERAL EDITORIALS AND/OR COLUMNS ALSO ATTACKED

DEMIREL FOR HIS STATEMENT TO EFFECT ATTACK ON ECEVIT IS
ATTACK ON TURKISH NATION. SEVERAL WRITERS ALSO PROCLAIMED
NEED FOR UNITY AMONG TURKS IN FACE OF EXTERNAL THREATS, WHILE
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ONE MODERATE YENI ASIR COLUMNIST, KEMAL YERBAN, SAID THAT THE

EVENT DEMONSTRATED THAT TURKS CAN RELY ON NO ONE OUTSIDE OF TURKEY.

2. WHILE NO JOURNALIST ATTRIBUTED THE ATTACK TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, VARIOUS REFERENCES TO GREECE, THE GREEK LOBBY IN THE U.S., THE ASSAILANT'S NATIONALITY IMPLIED THE EVENT WAS ASSOCIATED WITH GREECE'S HOSTILITY TOWARD TURKEY. YENI ASIR'S KEMAL KARHAN SUGGESTED THAT ECEVIT'S ATTACKER WAS PART OF "SAME ORGANIZATION WHICH ASSASSINATED OUR AMBASSADORS". DEMOKRAT IZMIR IN FRONT PAGE UNSIGNED EDITORIAL MALICIOUSLY CHARGED THAT SYKOPETRIDES WAS "KNOWLEDGABLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE (US)

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GREEK LOBBY, ... HIRED MAN OF GREEK AND GREEK CYPRIOT CAPITALISM WHICH INCLUDES TOM PAPAS, ONE OF COCA COLA'S OWNERS, SPIROS SKOUROS OF 20TH CENTURY FOX, OPIUM KING OF GREEK ORIGIN JOSEPH M. LINSEY, LIVANOS, NIARCOS AND THE LATE ONASSIS.... AND KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWINGLY THE EXECUTOR A CIA PLAN...." ONE OTHER COLUMN (IN YENI ASIR) ALSO WOVE REFERENCE TO SUCCESSES OF U.S. GREEK LOBBY IN INFLUENCING U.S. POLICY INTO TREATMENT OF THE EVENT, BUT DID NOT LINK ASSAILANT WITH THE LOBBY.

3. TWO LARGE MOURNING WREATHS WERE DELIVERED TO IZMIR GREEK CONSULATE, ONE BY CONTROVERSIAL LEFTIST MAYOR OF GULTEPPE, AYDIN ERTEN AND THREE ASSOCIATES, THE OTHER BY GROUP OF SOME 30 MEMBERS OF IZMIR RPP PROVINCIAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION. RPP SOURCES TOLD US LATTER ACTED IN EMULATION OF ANKARA ASSOCIATES.

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